



Inside-Out Prison Exchange

ENGL 234: Drama / WGST 393: Special Topics (Inside-Out Prison Exchange)

Fall 2022 | Weds 8AM – 12:30PM

Dr. Katy Ryan

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This Inside-Out course offers the opportunity to take a class inside a prison. The [Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program](#) brings on-campus students and incarcerated learners together to take a college class in a highly interactive educational space. We will meet once a week at SCI-Greene, a maximum-security men's prison in Waynesburg, PA (approx. 25 min. drive from Morgantown).

Class will meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00 – 11:45. With travel time, you will need to be available from 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Carpools will be available.

We will study twentieth-century and contemporary US American drama that invites us to think about sources of injustice and pathways to peace. From its ancient roots, the theatre has been riveted on questions about power and human relationships. We will discuss a range of theatrical forms—social realist, expressionist, workers' theatre, epic drama, the choreopoem, documentary—and consider whether certain forms are more likely to move audiences to new ways of thinking and acting. There will be opportunities to discuss and research the criminalization of poverty and addiction, the historical construction of race, gender, class, and sexuality, and modes of collective struggle and healing. Our goal will be to better understand this world we inhabit and create.

Plays

Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* (1935)

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)

Ntozake Shange, *for colored girls* (1976)

August Wilson, *The Piano Lesson* (1987)

Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, *The Exonerated* (2000)

Tony Kushner, *Homebody / Kabul* (2002)

Quiara Alegría Hudes, *Water by the Spoonful* (2012)

Requirements

Stellar attendance and participation | Short reader reflections | One essay (6 pp) | Collaborative group project

To Register

This class is by permit only. If you are interested, please email me a brief statement on why you would like to be part of this class. Feel free to ask questions as well. I will schedule short interviews with everyone interested in taking the class. This class is cross-listed; students can enroll in ENGL 234 or WGST 393.